

THE PRESIDENT MAY RIDE IN HIS SPECIAL TRAIN

**Long Fight to Obtain the Item of \$25,000---
A Forerunner of Increase in the
President's Salary.**

(Mail Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 25.—After next Sunday, which will be July 1 and the beginning of the government's new year, President Roosevelt will be able to order out his special car or his special train, as the case may be, and travel at government expense. He will be the only government official in the United States with such a privilege and it will be the first time in the history of the Republic that any such thing has been possible.

Senator Hale, of Maine, acting chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is really to be credited with having the appropriation enacted into law. There were so many objections and the parliamentary obstacles were so numerous that but for his clever maneuvering, the appropriation of \$25,000 for the President's traveling expenses would have been defeated. The House was unable to pass it on the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill. Mr. Hale put it back on the Sundry Civil bill in the Senate, where it was vigorously opposed, so that Mr. Hale would likely have been forced to withdraw it so as to get a vote on his bill in season to get it into conference. But in the meantime the House had passed it as a separate bill. The Senate would have debated that at length, in all probability, had not Mr. Hale taken it up speedily in committee, secured a favorable report, and then, at a moment when the Democratic and a few Republican senators were pausing for breath to debate the same proposition on the Sundry Civil bill, asked an agreement at five o'clock that afternoon on the separate bill. It was agreed to before the opposition could work out a proposition for fighting it. The vote on the separate bill was taken and then there was no reason to press the item on the Sundry Civil longer.

Perhaps the most significant thing about the authorization of this appropriation is that it probably will be a forerunner of an increase in the President's salary, now \$50,000 a year. There are believed to be some good objections to the \$25,000 item and it is not yet certain whether the President can spend it, for the Comptroller of the Treasury may refuse to pass the President's vouchers on the ground that the appropriation is unconstitutional. But there is also a feeling that our President should have a larger salary than \$50,000 and Congress is probably about ready to increase his salary to \$75,000 or \$100,000 a year.

Mr. Roosevelt, however, can not be paid a larger salary than \$50,000. That is because the constitution expressly forbids any increase in his salary during his term of office. At the short session, which adjourned March 4, 1905, Mr. Roosevelt tried to persuade the House to increase his salary, so that it would be available during the term he is now serving. But he thought, for political reasons, it would be best to have a Democrat, Representative Maynard, of Virginia, to introduce the bill. That enraged Speaker Cannon, who thought the bill should have been introduced by a Republican and who also thought the President should have consulted him about it, and the bill was not permitted to have consideration in the House.

This time different tactics were followed. It was at the instance of the President that the item of \$25,000 was put on the Sundry Civil bill. But it went out on a point of order, sustained by Representative Watson, of Indiana, who happened to be the presiding officer in committee of the whole at the time. The next day Mr. Watson was summoned to the White House offices and asked to introduce the separate bill, carrying the same amount of appropriation. He did so and that is the bill which has become law, through the generalship of Senator Hale.

The President's grounds for asking the appropriation are generally regarded by Congress as entirely reasonable. He wrote Chairman Tawney of the Appropriation Committee, a letter stating, as he had previously stated to several Congressional callers, that he did not want the money for his personal traveling expenses. If he goes on a week's end visit down to his little home in Albermarle County, Virginia, he does not expect the government to foot the bills. But nearly always when he travels the President is unable to go unattended. The railroads as a rule will not haul him on their regular trains. They will not take the risk of injury and insist on his going in a special, if the journey is to be a long one. The Pennsylvania railroad has taken the President in a special car on its regular trains, several times in recent years between here and New York, but if the journey is a long one, the railroad managers say there must be a special train as they can guard that better from the usual accidents of railroad travel.



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Then when the President is traveling, there is hardly an hour, during the day, when he is not compelled to transact public business. He must have his secretary with him; also a stenographer or two, and a typewriter or two, a half dozen secret service men, to say nothing of two or three servants and a dining car. The press association always insist on having a representative along with the President. Accordingly when the party is all made up it comprises twenty-five or thirty persons. Therefore on a long journey it is necessary, almost indispensable, to have a special train of a private car for the President and a few friends, two extra Pullman cars for those accompanying him, one of which cars is generally used during the day as a working room for the stenographers and typewriters, a dining car and a baggage car.

The cost of such a special train approximates \$600 or \$700 a day. Heretofore when Presidents have traveled the railroads have furnished these special trains free. It was not much of a loss to them, because the attraction of a President traveling over their road increased other travel. At the same time it put the President under obligation to the railroad as none of the Presidents have been sufficiently rich to pay the cost out of their own pockets. Mr. Roosevelt is a fairly wealthy man in his own right but he has spent a lot of money in the White House entertaining, and he feels that that is about as far as he ought to go with his own money.

Furthermore the railroad rate regulation bill, which is expected to become a law before the end of another week, makes the granting of free passes for government officials a misdemeanor, which is another insuperable reason for the President of the United States in the years to come going junketing over the country on special trains furnished by railroads free of cost.

TIRED CONGRESSMEN.

A more tired and forlorn set of law makers has not been seen in Washington for twenty years than those who are now engaged in closing out the legislation of the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress. A portion of the Senators and members have already left town, when the end of the session is yet a week away. Some have gone home; some have gone to Europe; some have started away to attend to politics, and still others have gone to attend to pressing matters of business.

But the leaders of Senate and House remain and will have to stick by their guns till the very last. They are the men who really have to work hard and who have some reason for being tired after six months of as strenuous legislation as the country has seen since William McKinley was first inaugurated. And by the way President Roosevelt himself, a very strenuous man, is tired and worn out. He finds at last that the strain is telling upon him. He set the pace for the official activities here, and all others have been trailing. Now he sincerely wants Congress to get away and give him opportunity to go to his country home at Oyster Bay and recuperate.

PRESIDENT WOULD REST.

Heretofore at the close of a session of Congress the President has felt buoyant and has cared little whether a lot of work lay ahead of him during the summer or not. He was ready to plan some arduous travel or other undertaking for the summer months. He was willing to accept invitations and occupy his time to suit the pleasure of divers communities.

Now he wants to forego everything except resting in his country home at Oyster Bay. He does not want delegations to go there to see him, he does not intend to transact any business for a couple of months, except business of the most pressing nature. For the first time in many years he is anxious to have a couple of months of solid rest.

His cabinet also want a chance to recover their breath. They have been absorbed in the vortex this session. The President has kept them and Congress jumping and they sigh for the cool breezes of the beach or the quiet of the mountain tops. Usually the cabinet officials have a month or two of activity adjusting matters that are affected by the appropriation laws. Inevitably there is a lot of work in that connection and in getting the government well-started on the new fiscal year. But much of it will be left this year to the assistant secretaries and other subordinates, for the cabinet officials will take a rest almost as soon as the President leaves town. As the President now intends going to New York within a day or two after the adjournment of Congress, it is certain that the Cabinet officials will drop out rapidly after that. It is difficult to make official Washington work its hardest when the President is away.

The unusual length of the session of Congress has made it difficult to make Senators and members stay in town. The Senators generally go and come as they please. They are much more independent about it than members of the House, especially Republican members, whom the Speaker keeps an eye upon. He must have a good majority in town at all times, lest the Democrats make trouble for him. Therefore members are required to secure leave of absence by permission of the House. The Speaker has had to cajole and threaten this year to keep his big majority from melting away because of absenteeism. That big majority of over 100 comprises many new members, who have never been in Washington during the summer months before and find the climate especially disagreeable. It is too hot for them and they long for their own hearths. In many of the Congressional districts the campaign has already begun and the members like to be back home to know what is going on.

But with all these struggles to keep members in town Speaker Cannon has had his trials to shape the legislation demanded by the President. He and his leaders have had their hands full. The Senate leaders have also had their hands full. There has not been a week since Congress came together after the holidays that there has not been one or more hot fights in progress. Sometimes it has been between the President and the Senate, sometimes between the Senate and the House, and finally there have been many fights between the President and the House, although fewer than between the other parties mentioned.

The rank and file of both branches of Congress don't mind this much. It does not tax them especially. They are looking after their little kettles of fish as usual and have not much else to do except to vote when the final voting time comes. But the old men of both bodies—and the leaders of both branches are chiefly men well advanced in years—have found the strain great.

The closing work of the session comprises fewer controversies over appropriation bills than usual. The troubles are all over legislation the President is demanding—such as the railroad rate regulation bill and the meat inspection rider. Were it not for these measures the President has been forcing through Congress, it would have adjourned two months ago and the closing would have been remarkably peaceful.

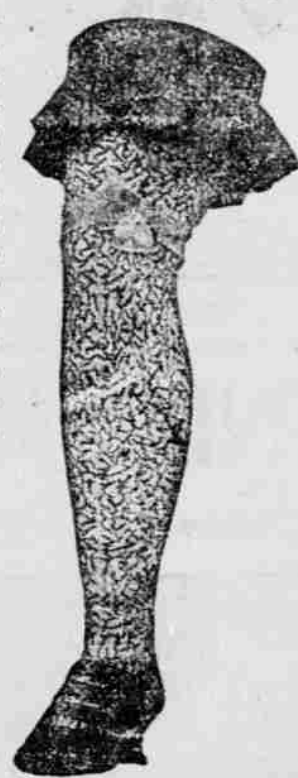
CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMING.

There will be little rest for the leaders of Senate and House, after Congress does adjourn. They may get a short respite during July and a part of August but the Congressional campaign is coming on and Senators as well as Representatives are concerned about it. Senators are at the head of party organizations in most of the states where there is a fight. Senator Hale is recognized as the leading party man in Maine, for instance, where there is a lively campaign in prospect. Senator Gallinger is also the head of the Republican organization in New Hampshire, where there is a big election; Senator Lodge, in Massachusetts, where the Democrats are trying to capture the state, and so on across the country.

Speaker Cannon will enter the campaign early and will take all his leaders with him, for it is a big fight they have to hold the country to vote for another Republican Congress. First there will be the preliminary campaigns for renomination. Some of these have already been fought. But the speaking will begin early in the East, especially in Vermont and Maine, where the orators of national fame will get warmed up for the general strife that closes with the November election. Therefore it promises to be a strenuous summer and a strenuous autumn, politically, to be followed forthwith by another, but a short, session of Congress.

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